

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action mailed January 11, 2006, the Examiner maintained rejections of claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 11-23. By way of the foregoing, Applicants have canceled claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 11-23 and added new claims 24-46. The foregoing amendments are taken in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

I. Rejection under 35 USC 102/103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 11-23 as being anticipated by or obvious in view of one or more of the following references: Winckler et al. (US Patent No. 6,420,047); Gallucci et al (US Patent No. 5,596,049); Ladang et al (US 2002/0153633); and Tickart et al (US 2002/0082350). Applicants have canceled all of the rejected claims, making those rejections moot, and have filed new claims 24-46. The new claims are based upon the previously pending claims but have been amended to further clarify the patentable subject matter of the present application. In particular, the references of record do not suggest methods of new claims 24-46 wherein, along with the other limitation of those claims, a crosslinked matrix is formed in a sheet molding compound wherein the polymer chains as described in the claims are formed separately from the cross-linked matrix or where a linking agent couples those polymer chains together in the matrix and the linking agent is a multi-functional linking agent selected from a diepoxide, a diisocyanate, a diester or a combination thereof. This is particularly the case where such a matrix is formed in a sheet molding compound where a filler is combined with the reactive admixture that forms the molding compound and wherein the filler and the reinforcement material represent at least about 50% by weight of the sheet molding compound. This is even further the case where the filler is calcium carbonate and wherein the macrocyclic oligoester, the secondary compound or both are present in the sheet molding compound in an amount between about 1% and about 30% by weight.

It is noted that multiple previous argument presented for the previous claims are also applicable to the newly presented claims and those arguments are incorporated herein by reference.

By amending the application, the Applicants do not concede that the patent coverage available to them would not extend as far as the original claim. Rather, Applicants intend to file a continuation application to pursue the breadth of the claims as filed. Applicants believe that the Examiner has not made a sufficient showing of inherency of the teachings of the asserted prior art, especially given the lack of teachings in the cited references of the properties that Applicants have recited in their claims.

Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an equivalent. After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicants from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicants would otherwise be entitled.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 292-2920.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 04-1512 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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